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Monocacy National Battlefield News Release

For Immediate Release

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DRAFT NPS MANAGEMENT POLICIES RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The National Park Service (NPS) has released for public comment a proposed update of NPS Management Policies, which provides park managers policy guidance to achieve the Service's mission to conserve park resources while providing for their enjoyment by present and future generations. NPS Management Policies have been reviewed and updated many times in the past, most recently in 2001. The current revision was the product of a series of meetings among NPS and Department of Interior officials in response to interest from Congress in seeing policy review to ensure achievement of both the visitor enjoyment and conservation mission. Park managers also urged revisions that addressed changing needs and circumstances of parks; for example, increased population pressures on parks, a more sophisticated business climate, vastly improved information technology, and changing demographics.

The revised Management Policies also:

- Provide clear definitions of "unacceptable impacts" to resources and "appropriate uses" of parks, enabling park managers to more clearly anticipate and articulate how impairment of resources can best be prevented.
- Provide more flexibility and tools to park managers and recognize that each park has unique needs.
- Recognize new challenges facing the NPS, such as Homeland Security.
- Encourage management excellence by using better baseline scientific data, cooperative conservation, civic engagement, and good business practices.
- Provide guidance in response to changing recreation uses and technology.

Notice of Availability of the draft Management Policies has been published in the Federal Register. **Public input is encouraged.** The document is available for review and comment online through February 18, 2006 at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/waso>.

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